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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

July 14, 1986

Local/Area

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Confused students and parents who fear there is a shortage of money for student financial aid should stop worrying: The Reagan Administration's proposed cuts have not become a reality. Student aid to attend Eastern Illinois University is available and will continue to be available, thanks to the efforts of Congress, said President Stan Rives.

"We have discovered that many students and parents believe aid has been severely curtailed, and are either hesitating or deciding not to apply for aid," said Rives.

"It must be made clear to students and parents that student aid is still available, and will continue to be available," he said.

Congress did not endorse the massive student aid cuts proposed by the Reagan Administration, he said. In fact, every congressional action to date has rejected those cuts, according to Richard Jerue, vice president for governmental relations of the Washington, D.C.-based American Association of State Colleges and Universities, of which Eastern Illinois University is a member. The budget resolution recently adopted by Congress provides more funds for student aid, not less, Jerue said.

"Many students and parents are also very concerned about the shortfall in funds for the Pell Grant program," said Rives. Earlier this year, there were reports that this shortfall could either reduce or eliminate individual Pell awards, he said.

Again, Congress has acted to prevent this from occurring, he said. A supplemental appropriations bill that includes additional Pell Grant funds has been adopted by Congress and signed by the President. It will prevent massive reductions in this program next fall, he added.

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Student Aid

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The Pell Grant program will be funded this fall; the maximum Pell Grant award is \$2,100 and is limited to 60 percent of the total cost of attendance, Jerue said.

"We do not want students who may be strapped for funds to postpone or forgo college because of a misperception that student aid is not available," Rives said.